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USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Month: December 2012**

**Number: 40**

**Released: December 31, 2012**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 2012

The month of December has been a mild month for producers across the Commonwealth, with warm temperatures and minimal rainfall. By and large, the soil moisture levels across the State continue to be low, although many areas have received much needed precipitation by way of rain or snow since Christmas. Small grain conditions have improved with the added moisture, as have pastures and hayfields improved as well. Although the small showing of rain has been beneficial, more moisture will be needed to prevent a drought moving into the spring. Activities included making planting decisions for 2013, taking soil samples and spreading lime and scouting small grain crops.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	9	23	64	4
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	6	18	72	4

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	33	37
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	18	15
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	48	52

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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**Virginia Tech**

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**Virginia State University**



**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

# **VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30, 2012**

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	45	29	54	23	37	1	1.67	2.65	-0.29	29.82	-13.39
Norfolk	52	38	62	29	45	3	2.94	4.48	1.77	48.34	2.74
Richmond	48	33	54	23	41	3	1.63	2.83	0.03	36.53	-6.95
Roanoke	46	33	55	28	40	3	1.85	2.58	-0.05	32.91	-9.28
Wash/Dulles	42	29	47	21	36	2	1.71	2.87	0.06	35.62	-5.79

## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### **NORTHERN**

**FREDERICK** (Jeanette R. Smith)  
We had approximately 4 inches of snowfall on December 26.

### **CENTRAL**

**CHESTERFIELD** (Joan D Poore)  
Annually, the county is below moisture level at this time of year. We started receiving rainfall in the past 10 days which has been beneficial to small grains. Nothing critical at this point, however, more moisture is needed for healthy and productive crops for 2013.

**HANOVER** (Jim Tate)  
We were bone dry, with little to no rain in weeks and the streams were drying up at a faster rate than in the summer. Then we had the after Christmas storm and had wonderful rain, 2 and 1/2 inches at my Western Hanover home. This was the first significant rain we had since much heralded hurricane Sandy, which only brought us three inches of rain.

### **EASTERN**

**MIDDLESEX** (David Moore)  
We have received some much needed rain during the past few days and a rainy weekend is in store. Small grains are enjoying this and have gotten a greener look and started to tiller well. Pastures and hay also are benefitting. Producers are making planting decisions and doing some deep tillage. Soil sampling and lime spreading have begun. Scouting of small grains crop also a high priority.

### **SOUTHERN**

**FRANKLIN** (Cynthia Martel)  
Franklin county is very dry, the little rain in the last week helped very little. The county needs rain and moisture to prevent a spring drought. Animals on pasture will need a lot more baled hay to keep through the winter months. The month of December was mild temperatures. Cold temperatures are now here. Everyone needs rain and moisture. Cover crops had warm temperatures but no rain.

### **SOUTHEASTERN**

**VIRGINIA BEACH** (Roy D. Flanagan III)  
Winter wheat seems to be off to a good start in our area. With the normal to below normal temperatures we have had over the past couple of weeks, our strawberries look to have gone into dormancy with no new top growth expected until we have an extended period of warm weather.





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